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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Rockies Express Pipeline, LLC

Docket No. CP14-498-000

Notice of Intent to Prepare an  
Environmental Assessment for the Proposed  
**Zone 3 East-To-West Project**  
and  
Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Zone 3 East-to-West Project (Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Rockies Express Pipeline, LLC (Rockies Express) in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the Project. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. Please note that the **scoping period will close on September 4, 2014**. Further details on how to submit written comments are in the Public Participation section of this notice.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this Project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed Project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the Commission approves the Project, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings where compensation would be determined in accordance with state law.

Rockies Express provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?"

This fact sheet addresses a number of typically-asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is also available for viewing on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)).

### **Summary of the Proposed Project**

The purpose of the Project is to enable bi-directional flow capability within Rockies Express Zone 3, thereby allowing the existing 42" Rockies Express Pipeline to offer an additional 1,200,000 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) of east-to-west firm transportation of Appalachian Basin gas production to Midwestern gas markets, while maintaining existing firm transportation commitments stations, over pressure protection addition to Zone 3 delivery interconnects, and modifications to four existing delivery interconnects.

### **Modifications to Existing Compressor Stations**

- Station piping to provide bi-directional flow at the existing Chandlersville, Hamilton, and Bainbridge Compressor Stations in Muskingum County and Warren County, Ohio; and Putnam County, Indiana; and
- mainline pressure regulation facilities at the existing Blue Mound Compressor Station in Christian County, Illinois.

### **Over Pressure Protection Addition to Zone 3 Delivery Interconnects**

- Over pressure protection facilities at the Clarington Hub encompassing three delivery interconnects (Dominion Transmission, Dominion East Ohio, and Texas Eastern Transmission) in Monroe County, Ohio; and
- over pressure protection facilities at the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company (PEPL) Putnam delivery interconnect in Putnam County, Indiana.

### **Modifications to Existing Delivery Interconnects**

- facility modifications at existing delivery interconnect at PEPL Putnam in Putnam County, Indiana; Midwestern Edgar in Edgar County, Illinois; Trunkline Douglas in Douglas County, Illinois; and NGPL Moultrie in Moultrie County, Illinois. The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the Federal Register. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-

## **Land Requirements for Construction**

The total land requirement for construction of the Project is about 10.2 acres, of which 6.1 acres would be permanently affected by the facilities operation.

## **The EA Process**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. The NEPA also requires us<sup>2</sup> to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as “scoping.” The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed Project under these general headings:

- geology and soils;
- land use;
- water bodies, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- air quality and noise;
- endangered and threatened species; and
- public safety

We will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed Project or portions of the Project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. The EA will be available in the public record through eLibrary. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, we may also publish and distribute the EA to the public for an allotted comment period. We will consider all comments on the EA before making our recommendations to the Commission. To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section of this notice.

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8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

<sup>2</sup> “We”, “us”, and “our” refer to the environmental staff of the Commission’s Office of Energy Projects.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice.

### **Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act**

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with applicable State Historic Preservation Office (s) (SHPO), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the Project's potential effects on historic properties.<sup>3</sup> We will define the Project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPOs as the project develops. On natural gas projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EA for this Project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status on consultations under Section 106.

### **Public Participation**

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the Project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send in your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before **September 4, 2014**.

For your convenience, there are three methods which you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances please reference the Project docket number (CP14-498-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov).

- (1) You may file your comments electronically by using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)

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<sup>3</sup> The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Historic properties are defined in those regulations as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register for Historic Places.

under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). An eComment is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project;

- (2) You may file your comments electronically by using the [eFiling](#) feature, which is located on the Commission's website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). With eFiling you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "eRegister." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. A comment on a particular project is considered a "Comment on a Filing;" or
- (3) You may file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

### **Environmental Mailing List**

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental groups and non-governmental organizations; interested Indian tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for Project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the Project. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project.

If the EA is published for distribution, copies will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. **If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the compact disc version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 2).**

### **Becoming an Intervenor**

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an “intervenor” which is an official party to the Commission’s proceeding. Intervenor play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission’s final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are included in the User’s Guide under the “e-filing” link on the Commission’s website.

### **Additional Information**

Additional information about the Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at **(866) 208-FERC** or on the FERC website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the “eLibrary” link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on “General Search” and enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits, in the Docket Number field (i.e., CP14-498). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets.

This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. Go to <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp>

Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission’s calendar located at [www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx](http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx) along with other related information.

Dated: August 5, 2014

Kimberly D. Bose,  
Secretary